

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05244 031045 Z

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SUBJ: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ARTICLE ON BANGKOK

REF : A. BANGKOK 4116

B. BANGKO 4215

C. BANGKOK 5085

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MRS. SUSAN F. MOORE,
RESEARCH STAFF, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, FROM
HERVEY P. CLARK, JR:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS AND COMMENTS ARE IN RESPONSE TO
YOUR QUESTIONS SENT TO SARAH CLARK:

PAGE 96: CAPTION -- THERE ARE PEOPLE WEARING SARONGS ON
THE STREETS, BUT VERY FEW. PEOPLE WEAR THEM MOSTLY AT
HOME. PLEASE SEE AMBASSADOR UNGER'S LETTERS AND CABLES
TO MR. GRAVES REGARDING THE OVERALL UNSUITABILITY OF
THIS PHOTOGRAPH.

TEXT--" PHRA GADE" IN THAI FOR NEPTUNE AND REFERS TO
ASTROLOGY, NOT PALMISTRY. THE LATER MENTION OF, " FIVE SPRITS"
MAY REFER TO THE FIVE MOUNDS ON THE PALM, NOT ALL OF WHICH ARE CON-
SIDERED LUCKY ON ALL PALMS. AS FOR GUARDIAN SPIRITS, THAI CAN
HAVE MORE THAN FIVE.

JAKARTA IS NOW OFFICIALLY SPELLED WITHOUT THE D.

PAGE 98: A REFERENCE BOOK WE HAVE CORROBORATES THAT THE
AREA OF GREATER BANGKOK IS APPROXIMATELY 600 SQUARE MILES.

PAGE 102: MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE SIGNS SAY " CHAROEN KRUGN" IN
THAI AND ENGLISH.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05244 031045 Z

WHILE MOST PEOPLE DO NOT LIVE IN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS, ABSOLUTELY NOBODY IN BANGKOK LIVES AS HE DID MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO IN THE SENSE THAT PEOPLE NOW HAVING RUNNING WATER, ELECTRICITY, RADIO, TELEVISION, NOISE, SEVERE CROWDING, ETC. AND THE BUILDING MATERIALS OF EVEN HUMBLE DWELLINGS HAVE CHANGED FROM BAMBOO OR WOOD TO CORRUGATED TIN OR MASONRY.

COLUMN TWO--" WAI" IS CORRECTLY SPELLED IN THE PROOF.

PAGE 103: SUKHUMVIT ROAD IS SPELLED WITH AN H AFTER THE K.

PAGE 104: THE " PHRA PRANG" OF THE TEMPLE OF THE DAWN IS MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS " A THAI MODIFICATION OF A KHMER ' PRANG' OR TOWER", NOT ASPIR E. THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT TELLS US IT IS SIXTY METERS HIGH.

PAGE 111: SIDE BETS CAN TOTAL \$150, BUT BETS OF THAT SIZE ARE NOT (RPT NOT) MADE BY LABORERS AS THE CAPTION SUGGESTS.

PAGE 113: SUGGEST EXCISING THE " SO- CALLED " JUST BEFORE " SUKHOTHAI AND AYUTTHAYA PERIODS."

CAPTION: " SEA BOXING" IS BROADCAST REGULARLY ON TELEVISION.

PAGE 114: THE PROBLEM OF SUBSIDENCE OF THE GROUND LEVEL IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN PRESENTED IN THIS CAPTION. PUMPING LARGE AMOUNTS OF WATER OUT OF DEEP WELLS IS THOUGHT TO CAUSE THE CLAY SUBSOIL TO COMPACT AND THE GROUND LEVEL TO SUBSIDE AS IT HAS ELSEWHERE UNDER SIMILAR CONDITIONS. THE DIFFICULTY HERE IS IN MEASURING IT ACCURATELY, AND NOBODY KNOWS FOR SURE WHETHER OR HOW MUCH BANGKOK IS SINKING, THOUGH IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT IT IS. THE PROBLEM OF SUBSIDENCE CAUSED BY WATER EXTRACTION IS NOT RELATED TO SURFACE LOADING BY HEAVY BUILDINGS AS THIS CAPTION TENDS TO SUGGEST. AN EVEN MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM RELATED TO WATER EXTRACTION IN SALINE INTRUSION INTO THE WATER SUPPLY. ALREADY THIS IS GIVING SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO SOME FACTORIES, AND IF NOTHING IS DONE ABOUT IT, IT WILL RUIN THE WHOLE WATER SUPPLY.

PAGE 116: THE CAPTION ABOUT SQUID IS ENTIRELY CORRECT AS WRITTEN.

PAGE 118: COLUMN ONE --" HANGYAO" IS CORRECT FOR LONGTAILED BOATS.

CAPTION: SOME OF THE SUBDIVISIONS ARE GOVERNMENT BUILT, BUT MOST ARE NOT. THE PRICE RANGE IS APPROXIMATELY CORRECT AS STATED.

PAGE 123: COLUMN TWO: THE PRICE MARK UP FOR HEROIN UNCLASSIFIED

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